



MEMORANDUM FOR: THE RECORD

FROM: Bernie Denno, REM
NOAA Safety and Environmental Compliance Office

SUBJECT: Categorical Exclusion
Norfolk, VA Aerial and Transportation Easements

NAO 216-6, Environmental Review Procedures, requires all proposed projects/actions to be reviewed with respect to environmental consequences on the human environment.

The proposed real estate actions, the issuance of two property use easements, are described as follows:

Description of Proposed Actions

1) Aerial Easement: Hampton Roads Transit (Grantee) has made application for an easement over and across a part of NOAA's (Grantor) Marine Operations Center Atlantic property, hereinafter referred to as Marine Operations Center Atlantic, to install, operate, repair, and maintain a light rail bridge and abutment. It is deemed advantageous to Grantor that the requested easement be granted. A copy of the NOAA Easement Agreement, including the legal description of the property involved for this Aerial Easement is attached to this CATEx document.

2) Transportation Easement: Grantee has made application for an easement over and across a part of Grantor's National Geodetic Survey property in Norfolk, hereinafter referred to as National Geodetic Survey to install, operate, repair, and maintain a light rail bridge and abutment. It is deemed advantageous to Grantor that the requested easement be granted. A copy of the NOAA Easement Agreement, including the legal description of the property involved for this Transportation Easement, is attached to this CATEx document.

It has been determined that issuance of these easements will not interfere with any purposes for which the hereinafter described land is being used by Grantor.

Environmental Impact

The proposed action described above is considered minor and the environmental impact is non-significant.

NEPA Determination

The decision to grant the easements will not result in any impacts to the environment as contemplated under NEPA. As defined in Section 6.03c.3 (Real Estate Actions), Projects and Other NOAA Actions, of NAO 216-6, this is an action of simply granting a real property use easement only and does not involve physical changes to either property involved. As such, it is categorically excluded from the need to prepare an Environmental Assessment. It is also noted that all future design, permitting, and construction actions to be completed by the Grantee identified above may require additional NEPA consideration and documentation.



**Bernard F. Denno Jr. REM
Senior Technical Advisor
Environmental and Energy Division**

MARCH 3, 2008

Date

cc: Steve Kokkinakis, NOAA NEPA office